

House Resolution 18 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SWEENEY

1 A Resolution in support of cooperation between the
2 United States Food and Drug Administration and its
3 state partners on dairy testing.

4 WHEREAS, the dairy industry is a keystone
5 United States agricultural industry that provides
6 jobs in rural communities, supports the essential
7 infrastructure that enables other sectors of
8 agriculture, and provides open space for recreation,
9 sportsmen and women, and tourism; and

10 WHEREAS, the dairy industry provides an economic
11 impact of an estimated fourteen thousand dollars per
12 cow per year, primarily in the local economy; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States dairy industry is one of
14 the most highly regulated food-producing industries in
15 the country and provides fresh, healthy food consumed
16 by millions of people every day; and

17 WHEREAS, for many years the United States Food and
18 Drug Administration and states have cooperatively
19 enforced food and milk safety laws to assure the
20 wholesomeness and quality of the United States food
21 supply; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug
23 Administration recently proposed a testing plan related
24 to residual antibiotics in milk without an adequate
25 communication strategy with its state partners,
26 thereby making it difficult for states to have timely
27 information to respond to their key stakeholders; and

28 WHEREAS, the testing protocol and lack of clear

1 information potentially created a regulatory bind for
2 states, forcing them to act on preliminary results from
3 a screening test; and

4 WHEREAS, the original testing protocol is a process
5 taking several days or weeks and would result in the
6 likelihood that a dairy might have to dump milk while
7 waiting for the test results, creating an economic
8 hardship for farms; and

9 WHEREAS, it is essential that such a significant
10 loss of income should equate to the level of risk; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug
12 Administration has taken input from national
13 stakeholders and now placed the original plan on hold
14 and is working to determine alternate means of moving
15 forward; and

16 WHEREAS, the National Association of State
17 Departments of Agriculture has agreed to convene a
18 committee to identify pitfalls and determine solutions
19 so an assessment of the additional antibiotic residues,
20 if any, in milk can be determined and then develop
21 an enforcement strategy if a problem exists; NOW
22 THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
24 That the House of Representatives commends the United
25 States Food and Drug Administration for recognizing the
26 value of additional technical and programmatic input
27 from its state partners to scientifically determine
28 the likelihood of illegal residues being found in milk
29 before implementing an enforcement program; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of

1 Representatives commends the National Association of
2 State Departments of Agriculture for convening the
3 committee and encourages the association to include
4 at least one member on the committee representing the
5 State Agriculture and Rural Leaders Association; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
7 Representatives encourages the United States Food
8 and Drug Administration, in partnership with state
9 agencies and legislatures, to implement an outreach and
10 education program that can help assure the validity
11 of the rationale for the project and increase the
12 assurance of voluntary compliance wherever possible,
13 including outreach directly with the producers who have
14 been identified as likely in violation; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
16 Representatives encourages the United States Food and
17 Drug Administration to create a system of timely and
18 thorough communication and partnership with state
19 agencies and legislatures as it approaches this and
20 other regulatory issues; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of
22 Representatives encourages members of the National
23 Association of State Departments of Agriculture
24 to provide timely information to their respective
25 legislative committees regarding this and other federal
26 regulatory issues; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
28 resolution be sent to the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United
29 States Secretary of Agriculture; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this

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1 resolution be sent to the Honorable Margaret A.
2 Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs of the
3 United States Food and Drug Administration; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
5 resolution be sent to Mr. Leonard Blackham, President
6 of the National Association of State Departments of
7 Agriculture; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
9 resolution be sent to the Honorable Tom Harkin,
10 Chairman of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and
11 Forestry Committee of the United States Senate;
12 and the Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman of the
13 Committee on Agriculture, United States House of
14 Representatives; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
16 resolution be sent to Iowa's congressional
17 delegation; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
19 resolution be sent to the chairpersons of the
20 agriculture committees in other state legislatures.